

## **2008 WSSA Committee Report to Members**

### **Summary for 2008 and Action Plan for 2009 (rev 2-6-09)**

**Committee Code and Name:** W13 Weed Alert Committee  
Tue Feb 10, 2009 6:30-8:00 AM Dogwood Rm

**Committee Chair:** Alan V. Tasker

**Board Coordinator:** Toni DiTommaso

**Committee Members Rotating Off:** Randall, John TNC 2009-W; Johnson, Carroll ARS 2009-S

**Appropriate Replacements:** Randall, John TNC-W renewal; Webster, Ted ARS-S new. Both were contacted & agreed to serve.

#### **2008 Summary of Activities**

What were the committee's goals for 2008?

- Respond to new weed detections and evaluate candidate FNWs.
- Develop FNW factsheets and/or publicity pieces.

List the committee's accomplishments in 2008:

#### Candidate FNW evaluation & listing:

- **Lygodium:** Forwarded for evaluation/Pest Risk Assessments *Lygodium* spp. following request for import in nursery trade. For the first time used a shorter emergency regulating method for weeds by issuing a Federal Import Quarantine Order (May 30, 2008) to prevent the importation of *Lygodium microphyllum* (Old World Climbing Fern) and *L. flexuosum* (Maidenhair Creeper). The restrictions apply to any parts capable of propagation, including spores and leaves (fronds) of these climbing fern species.
  - An interim rule workplan was developed to add the above *Lygodium* spp. to the Federal Noxious Weed List, is in progress.
  - Other *Lygodium* spp. remain in review pending further data with supporting evidence of invasiveness, or in the case of *L. japonicum* clear evidence of desire for official programs in all the states infested.
- ***Oplismenus hirtellus* spp. *undulatifolius* (Wavyleafed basketgrass).** A detection in Maryland led to an evaluation of this species. Invasiveness has been established, however, a final decision regarding regulation is on hold pending more information on the genetic status of this non-variegated form. We are awaiting information to demonstrate that it not equivalent to the variegated form already in the horticulture trade.
- **Other Proposed rule:** A regulatory workplan is in progress to update the Federal Noxious Weed regulations and the Weed list (7 CFR 360.200) and seed list 7 CFR 361.6(a)(1), adding 7 new species to regulated status. Weeds proposed for regulation: *Onopordum acaulon*, *O. illyricum*, *Euphorbia terracina*, *Ageratina iparia*, *Arctotheca calendula*, *Acacia nilotica*, *Inula Britannica*. Other proposed changes are:
  - Add definitions for terms used in the regulations and replace references to the Federal Noxious Weed Act with references to the PPA;

- Add explanatory text to clarify the listing of noxious weeds in § 360.200;
- Provide additional detail about the requirements for permits to move noxious weeds in § 360.300;
- Amend the regulations to require heat treatment for *Guizotia abyssinica* (niger) seed, as currently required in § 319.37-6;
- Add a section to provide information about the process for petitioning to add or remove a taxon from the noxious weed list;
- Update or correct the taxonomic designations for several currently listed noxious weeds:

§ In § 360.200, we are proposing to change the designation of *Caulerpa taxifolia* to add the author's name and a common name and to clarify that only the Mediterranean strain is regulated as a noxious weed. The new entry would thus read: "*Caulerpa taxifolia* (Vahl) C. Agardh, Mediterranean strain (killer algae)." We would remove the entry for *C. taxifolia* from the list of noxious weed seeds with no tolerances applicable to their introduction in § 361.6(a)(1), since a marine alga would not be found in seed shipments.

§ The list of parasitic noxious weeds in § 360.200(b) contains an entry for *Cuscuta* spp. but lists exceptions for species within that genus that are native to or widespread in the United States. Three of the species listed as exceptions under *Cuscuta* spp.; *C. jepsonii*, *C. occidentalis*, and *C. nevadensis*, have been determined to be synonyms of three other species listed as exceptions—respectively, *C. indecora*, *C. californica*, and *C. veatchii*. (*C. veatchii* is currently listed in the regulations as *C. vetchii*; we would correct that error.) Accordingly, we would remove *C. jepsonii*, *C. occidentalis*, and *C. nevadensis* from the list of exceptions under *Cuscuta* spp. in § 360.200(b).

§ The names listed in the regulations for two species listed in § 360.200(c), the list of terrestrial noxious weeds, and § 361.6(a)(1) are not the currently accepted botanical names. Accordingly, we would replace the entry for *Digitaria scalarum* with an entry for *D. abyssinica* in § 360.200(c) and replace the entry for *Digitaria abyssinica* (= *D. scalarum*) in § 361.6(a)(1) with an entry that simply refers to *D. abyssinica*. In both §§ 360.200(c) and 361.6(a)(1), we would replace the entry for *Mimosa invisa* with an entry for *M. diplotricha*.

§ Both §§ 360.200(c) and 361.6(a)(1) contain entries for *Homeria* spp. However, this genus, and several other genera from the family Iridaceae, have been reclassified and transferred to the large genus *Moraea*. The PRA that we prepared to help evaluate whether we should add *Homeria* spp. to the noxious weed list considered specific species within the genus *Homeria*. These species are now classified as *Moraea collina*, *M. flaccida*, *M. miniata*, *M. ochroleuca*, and *M. pallida*. Accordingly, we would update the regulations by removing the entry for *Homeria* spp. from both §§ 360.200(c) and 361.6(a)(1) and adding entries for *M. collina*, *M. flaccida*, *M. miniata*, *M. ochroleuca*, and *M. pallida* in its place.

- ***Luziola subintegra***: Forwarded to APHIS Center for Plant Science & Technology (CPHST) Pest & Epidemiology Analysis Lab (PERAL) for evaluation/Risk Assessment. *Luziola subintegra* was detected in FL (Lake Okeechobee). Control program is underway by the state.
- ***Borreria alata/Spermacoce alata/Spermacoce latifolia***: The PERAL Weed Team provided clarification on the regulatory status of pineapples from Costa Rica contaminated with *Spermacoce latifolia*. Costa Rica claimed they didn't have *S. alata*, but *S. latifolia*. *Spermacoce latifolia* was found to be a synonym of *Spermacoce alata*, a noxious weed under the Plant Protection Act (formerly *Borreria alata*).
- **Revision & validation of Plant Risk Assessment (PRA) system**: CPHST has now completed assessments on 130 species of known U.S. non-invaders, minor-invaders, and major invaders using our revised draft PRA system. We hope to finish assessing 200 by around the end of March. Statistical analysis will follow.
  - Results from the Australian system (with Hawaii's secondary screening system) indicates that so far, this system is doing as well, if not slightly better than other tests of this system in the world.
  - Results from the APHIS model, which is similar to the Aussie system, indicate that it continues to separate major-invaders from non-invaders.

#### Factsheets:

- **Drafted factsheets**: Factcards drafted and reviewed: *Ageratina adenophora* (Crofton weed), *Crupina vulgaris* (Common crupina), *Galega officinalis* (Goatsrue). Factcard currently in editorial review for printing: *Asphodelus fistulosus* (Onionweed). The FNW National Program manager sponsored and supervised a native intern to do this work during the summer. The student was a part of the Washington Internship for Native Students (WINS) aka Washington Semester Program for American Indians/Alaska Natives/Alaska Natives – American University. The student also drafted factsheets summarizing invasive potential of candidate weeds proposed for the Q-37 Not Allowed import Pending Plant Risk Assessment. The student attended various professional meetings with the FNW program manager.
- **Factsheet distribution**: The factcard printed last year by APHIS on Benghal dayflower (*Commelina benghalensis*) was distributed to the APHIS regions and to state offices or other stakeholders upon request. The factcard was also distributed at a number of invasive species and weed conferences, e.g. NIWAW, WAB, International Grassland Congress/International Rangeland Congress joint meeting.

- **FNW Factsheets from APHIS/WSSA project.** This year CPHST completed Phase I of three phases (years) of factsheets. That is, 14 factsheets have been through multiple reviews and successfully posted on the WSSA website. CPHST plans to focus on the validation project for our Q37 revision until completed which will be at least through the end of March. We have two more sets of factsheets to process. The format in which we received the drafts requires additional work to produce a finished product. When CPHST has completed our part, the draft will be shared with the E4 committee. See <http://www.wssa.net/Weeds/Invasive/FactSheets/index.htm> duplicated here.

## INVASIVE PLANT FACT SHEETS

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USDA, APHIS, PPQ's Center for Plant Health Science and Technology began staffing scientists in 1997 for what was to become the newly created Plant Epidemiology and Risk Analysis Laboratory (PERAL). One of the first recognized priorities of scientists working within PERAL was to partner with professional societies to produce pest lists. PERAL entered into a cooperative agreement with the *Weed Science Society of America* to create a three-year project to better address noxious weed issues. [Read more about the project here...](#)

The fact sheets below are one of the results of this project.

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|---|--|
| • <a href="#"><i>Acroceras zizanioides</i></a>      | • <a href="#"><i>Ischaemum muticum</i></a>     |
| • <a href="#"><i>Actinoscirpus grossus</i></a>      | • <a href="#"><i>Ligustrum robustum</i></a>    |
| • <a href="#"><i>Cyperus aromaticus</i></a>         | • <a href="#"><i>Lygodium flexuosum</i></a>    |
| • <a href="#"><i>Digitaria ternata</i></a>          | • <a href="#"><i>Ottochloa nodosa</i></a>      |
| • <a href="#"><i>Eupatorium macrocephalum</i></a>   | • <a href="#"><i>Picnemon acarna</i></a>       |
| • <a href="#"><i>Gymnocroronis pilanthoides</i></a> | • <a href="#"><i>Rubus alceifolius.pdf</i></a> |
| • <a href="#"><i>Isachne globosa</i></a>            | • <a href="#"><i>Sagittaria pygmaea</i></a>    |

### Other Weed Outreach:

- **Weed displays:** In the pre-draft planning stage are two weed program related "windowshade" style banners. One will be generic to APHIS PPQ weed programs, the other specific to several FNW species.
- ***Commelina bengalensis*:** Benghal dayflower (also referred to as tropical spiderwort) - in Mississippi, North Carolina, and South Carolina. BD SE steering committee developed in cooperation with Southern Plant Board.
- **International:**
  - Provided funding to the 2008 Joint Meeting of the International Grassland Congress and the International Rangeland Congress held June 29, 2008 through July 5, 2008 in Huhhut, Inner Mongolia, China. Developed and chaired a symposium on Integrated Vegetation management, and sponsored 4 speakers for the symposium.
  - Participated in a tour of Outer Mongolia range, including management practices, including revegetation and other weed management.

- **Invasiveness assessment parameter project.** Cooperative Agreement with Washington State Univ. sponsoring a project developing data regarding invasiveness assessment parameters to support APHIS evaluation programs.
- **Ag Discovery Program.** This year, The Federal Noxious Weed program manager presented information to students regarding the APHIS weed program in the Ag Discovery Program.

#### FNW Program work:

- **Japanese Dodder** (*Cuscuta japonica*) in California. Continued funding for survey and eradication program, with additional program funds for regional coordination.
- **Program Reviews:**
  - Program Review meetings with Nez Perce Biological Control Program (NPBC). in ID, including transitioning the program from management by the Weed program to the Biological Control program. The NPBC program provides technology transfer workshops, and distributes biological control agents to state and regional cooperators from weed gardens and field nursery sites developed and maintained by NPBC. Currently 8 weed species are targeted, some with multiple biological control agents.
  - Reviews also were held of Onionweed eradication program in AZ & NM, and for Hogweed and Goatsrue survey and program plans in NY.
- **Categorical Exclusions:**
  - CatExs are under development for herbicide use on Tropical Soda Apple in several southern states.
  - NY Hogweed & Goatsrue. Achieved registration approval for a herbicide for use in riparian zone applications in NY. We worked with a state cooperator on survey, worked on development of an environmental document. Will provide additional guidance for the program in NY
- **Cogongrass MOU:** MOUs were signed by APHIS & cooperators in GA & MS surrounding states to: “work cooperatively in education, detection, inventorying, monitoring, controlling, and preventing the spread of cogongrass within the State ...;”
- **Pulling Together Initiative funding.** In FY 2008, APHIS continued to work with the Federal Interagency Committee for the Management of Noxious and Exotic Weeds (FICMNEW) on the “Pulling Together” Initiative. This initiative supports the creation of local Cooperative Weed Management Area partnerships that focus on mitigating the threat of invasive weeds. In 2008 APHIS funded through PTI 8 matching grant projects in the states of FL, MD, NC, SC, LA, TX, CA, PA. on 7 APHIS targets. Funding on these projects: 85K APHIS, other feds 300K, non-fed match 450K. APHIS funding for this effort supported survey, eradication, and site restoration activities involving weeds such as giant hogweed, Cogongrass, giant salvinia, hydrilla, and several proposed Federal Noxious Weeds.
- **Q-37 NAPPRA list review:** FNW program mgr cooperated with review team in developing subject list of candidate species for addition to the new category once the regulation establishing the category is promulgated.

What information was posted on the WSSA website? **FNW Factsheets from APHIS/WSSA project.** See above: This year we completed Phase I of three phases of factsheets. Fourteen factsheets reviewed and posted to the WSSA website.

How much funds were requested? How much was spent? [No funds requested](#)

What was the impact of the committee activities/accomplishments on the following: membership, publication, policy, legislation, and/or education? [Policy: Federal Noxious weed policy revisions, new candidate weeds evaluated and proposed for listing as FNW.](#)  
[Education: Various outreach projects.](#)

What is the current state of the committee's projects and activities? [Ongoing](#)

## **2009 Plan for Committee Activities**

Goals for 2009:

- [Develop new factsheets and/or publicity pieces for Federal Noxious Weeds \(FNW\)](#)
- [Respond to new weed detections & direct detections to evaluation for FNW status](#)
- [Develop various outreach and educational projects regarding weed programs, including support of educational programs through FICMNEW agencies and non-federal stakeholders.](#)
- [Cooperate with E4 committee \(Federal Noxious and Invasive Weeds Committee\) on projects of joint interest, including factsheets from the APHIS/WSSA Project "Creation of a Prioritization Model to Identify Weeds of Global Significance"](#)

Plan of Action:

What is needed to further the goals of the committee/project? [We should consider adding PDFs of the FNW factcards to the WSSA website as they are finalized and printed.](#)

## **Recommendations for Board/Society Action:**

Funds requested for 2009: [None](#)

Other requests for the Board: [None](#)